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Dr. Harmon C. McAllister
Council for Tobacco Research
900 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10022
USA

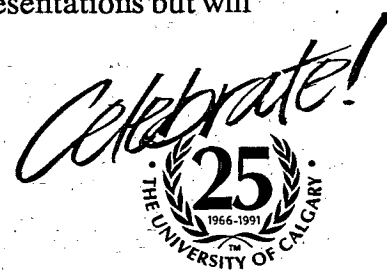
DR. K. A. Sharkey
The Faculty of Medicine
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Dear Dr. McAllister:

I am writing to you about sponsorship of a scientific meeting on neural control of the gastrointestinal tract entitled "Big Brain - Little Brain" (the title refers to the CNS and enteric nervous systems respectively; the term "little brain" was coined by Jack Wood some years ago), that will be held in August in 1993 near Toronto, Canada, just prior to the International Gastrointestinal Motility Meeting.

The meeting is small (about 40 participants) and by invitation only. This is the third of these very successful gatherings that bring together "young" investigators from around the world. I enclose last year's program for your information. The style of the meeting is informal and centered on active discussion. The meeting is held in a retreat type of housing (cheaper and more basic than average) that brings people together for 3 days of intense science. Participants give short presentations with ample time for discussion after each talk, followed by a further period of discussion. No proceedings are published and people are strongly encouraged to give new, unpublished or only recently published data. In effect, the meeting is a true state of the art summary of neural control of the GI tract. Last year, a short summary was published in the Journal of Gastrointestinal Motility by the joint co-chairmen, Jack Wood and David Grundy. I enclose a copy of this for your information. I expect that a similar type of summary will be produced in 1993.

In 1993, the program will consist of 9 sessions, each with 3-5 speakers and each session will have a theme based on 6 topics that have been agreed upon by the organizing committee. These topics are: (1) ganglion neurophysiology, (2) intrinsic reflexes, (3) gut brain - gut reflexes (including afferents), (4) neural control of motility, (5) neural control of secretion and blood flow, (6) neuroimmunology/neuroregeneration. We will have 2 senior investigators (Jack Wood and David Grundy) who will not give formal presentations but will chair the sessions and participate in the discussions.



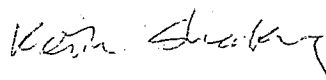
As I mentioned earlier, we are making every effort to keep the cost of this meeting as low as possible. In order to do that, we are holding the meeting in a retreat in the hills of Ancaster (near Toronto). We will be bused from Toronto airport, stay for 3 days in Ancaster and then, together, go to the International Motility site. The current cost for this part of the meeting is estimated to be \$12,000 CDN, for all participants (\$400 each). In addition, we wish to find money to cover a proportion of the airfares for people (particularly those coming from Europe, Japan and Australia). Since the program is not yet final, we do not know the exact costs, however, our current estimate is \$35,000 CDN. I am trying to raise funds for partial support of the participants' travel. Travel costs in the U.S./Canada are up to \$800 (west to east). Thus, I am writing to ask if your company will consider a contribution of \$5000 CDN (about \$4000 US). We wish to provide partial or complete support for all of the participants who will attend this meeting.

As you will see from the summary of the previous meeting, the sponsor, at that time Cilag of Germany, were acknowledged in this published report and of course on all other material associated with the meeting. A similar type of acknowledgement will be provided to your company should you be in a position to sponsor this meeting.

The investigators at this meeting represent the "new blood" in this important field. Although the conference is limited in size and to only those invited, its' effects have been felt widely in the GI/Neuroscience community, through collaborations and interactions involving the participants of this meeting. I should stress that this is not a club, this year there is a turnover of about 35-40% of the participants from the previous year and similar turnovers in the future are expected.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or by fax. Thank you for considering this request.

Yours sincerely,


Dr. Keith Sharkey
Assistant Professor
Depts of Medical Physiology/Medicine

on behalf of the Big Brain - Little Brain planning
group (Phil Collman, Gary Mawe, Mary Otterson, Keith Sharkey
and John Wiley)

KS/pw
Encl.